and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iv) Raids are carried out by the Wildlife Authorities whenever information of illegal trading in wild animals reaches them.

(v) A network of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks has been set up for conservation of wild fora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Govt. for development of National Parks and Sanctuaries on request from the State Governments

(vi) International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made therefrom is regulated under the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(vii) Regional and sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

(viii) Interdepartmental coordination is being enhanced with other enforcement organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards ect. A training programme on CITES enforcement and implementation was also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi in February, 1995.

(f) Three persons were arrested in the 3 cases of attempted smuggling of birds in the last two years.

Poaching of animals in Shimlipal National Park

5449. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidence of illegal poaching of animals and destruction of forests by poachers as well as local tribals in Shimilipal National Park on the occasion of Akhand Shikar, a local customary festival;

(b) if so, the dtails thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the illegal poaching of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the incidence of illegal felling of timber and poaching of animals during the Akhand Shikar. The details have been asked for from the Government of Orissa and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to stop illegal poaching are as under:

(i) State Government has been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling around the Similipal Tiger Reserve.

(ii) The State Government has set up 29 anti-poaching camps and mobilised field staff with wireless support and vehicles to keep a strict surveillance over the area during the 'Akhand Shikar' festival. District administration has provided additional support in the form of deployment of armed force at strategic locations during the period. Public awareness programmes have been launched by the Forest Department and the local NGOs related with tribal culture have been engaged to motivate the tribals not to indulge in "Akhand Shikar".

Grants/loans to industrial units closed down to meet environmental standards

5450. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI J. S. RAJU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmet have approved any scheme to give grants of loans to industrial units. closed down for meet

ing the prescribed environmental standards;

(b) if so, the number of units which have been so aided; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned upto the 31st December, 1994 since inception of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No such scheme has been approved to give grants or loans to the industrial units closed down for not meeting the prescribed environmental standard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sapru House Library

5451. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sapru House Library is functioning under private party or is under some Government organisation;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to take over the said library in view of the staff working in this library and getting low salary i.e. Rupees 1500/- to Rupees 2000/- per month; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Sapru House Library is functioning under Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), which is an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As a policy, Government is not in favour of taking over of autonomous bodies. However, the Government have decided to constitute a high-powered committee to oversee the functioning of Indian Council of World Affairs. As the Council is an autonomous body, the Government can constitute such a committee only with its consent. Presently, the governing body of the ICWA is being persuaded to pass a resolution requesting the Government to constitute this high-powered committee.

UNHRES pressure on India to Improve Human Rights Record

5452. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Human Rights Commission is putting pressure on India to improve its human rights record, especially in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) There is no pressure on India. The UN Commission on Human Rights has rejected all past attempts to adopt resolution against India. The UN Human Rights Commission deliberates on the human rights situation in various countries under specific agenda items during its sessions and its thematic and countries specific mechanisms further discuss different aspects of the human rights situation in all countries India responds to all UN mechanisms wherever required.

Prime Minister's visit to foreign countries

5453. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many countries abroad, the Prime Minister of India visited since January, 1995, till date and the details of agreements signed with them;

(b) how many foreign high dignitaries visited India during the same period, in-